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# DEPARTMENT OF VISITING NURSING AND SOCIAL WELFARE



IN CHARGE OF  
EDNA L. FOLEY, R.N.

[To keep this department up-to-date and helpfully interesting, nurses in social work of every description and superintendents of district nursing associations are asked to put the address of its editor—104 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago—on their mailing files for items, clippings, and annual reports.]

OHIO, CINCINNATI.—The second annual report of the Cincinnati Visiting Nurse Association is a record of splendid progress. The first nurse was put into the field just eighteen months ago and now there are seventeen nurses on the staff. The city has been divided into ten districts and one nurse each is assigned to work for the Association for the Welfare of the Blind, the Children's Clinic of the Ohio-Miami University, and the Maternity Society.

From August to January the eighty nurses investigated all cases of contagious diseases under the direction of the Board of Health. Disregard of quarantine precautions and the subsequent appearance of secondary cases in the immediate neighborhood were found in many cases and the results of the nurses' instructions and watchfulness helped to keep down the number of these latter. In the future it is hoped that this work may become a definite part of the Health Department's work.

Two interesting statements in the report of the superintendent, Abbie Roberts, were:

*First.* That the records of local charities showed that 50 per cent. of all dependency was due to ill health; and

*Second.* That there was hospital-bed provision for just about one-tenth of the sick in Cincinnati. Canvasses of other cities would show about the same proportion of dependants and a smaller proportion of beds, probably; so these two facts are, in themselves, an explanation why visiting nursing is developing and expanding beyond the hopes of its most sanguine progenitors. As long as there is, for so many of our people, the daily wage between comfort and poverty, between health

and sickness, the visiting nurse will find many opportunities to use her manual skill and her teaching ability.

CLEVELAND.—Margaret Kamerer, a visiting nurse who has been doing special-case tuberculosis work under the direction of the Anti-Tuberculosis League, has been engaged as traveling tuberculosis visiting nurse for Ohio for one year; she will spend one month each in the twelve cities of Ohio, that sold the most Red Cross 1911 seals, per capita, at Christmas time. Miss Kamerer began work in Circleville, March 1.

PENNSYLVANIA.—The twenty-sixth annual report of the Philadelphia Visiting Nurse Association gives an all too brief account of the opening of the fine new home of the Society, a large four-story residence at 1340 Lombard Street. The report of the superintendent, Margaret Lehman, shows a busy year's work well accomplished, and of special interest is one bit of co-operation whereby a large department store had arranged to have the visiting nurses visit all their sick employes in their homes. One especially noteworthy statement in the report is well entitled to the whole page, of which it is the centre-piece, viz.: "The object of the society is to give to the poor and to those of moderate means the best home nursing possible under the circumstances." May the day hasten when those of moderate means may feel free to call in the visiting nurses in other cities and thus help to solve that much discussed problem of nursing for the great middle class.

CONNECTICUT.—A very representative mass-meeting was held in Parson's Theatre, Hartford, on March 2 to discuss the rapidly growing work of the visiting nurse association, and means for obtaining increased funds to further its good work. Mayor Edward L. Smith presided, and the work of the association was presented from the standpoint of the school by the principal of the district in which school-nursing has been tried; of the Health Department by a medical inspector; of the Free Dispensary by its president; and of the Visiting Nurse Association, itself, by its superintendent, Martha J. Wilkinson. At the close of the meeting a finance committee was appointed whose members were to work to increase the number of annual subscribers, of \$10 each, to six hundred. The superintendent of the society has recently been elected vice-president of the Hartford Child Welfare Society, and has been appointed a member of the recently formed vice commission.

ILLINOIS.—Graduates of the Chicago Lying-in Hospital and Dispensary will be glad to hear that the plans have been completed and ground broken for the splendid new hospital at Vincennes Avenue and Fifty-first Street. In a recently issued report, containing views of the future hospital and its floor plans, the following startling figures were printed:

1. 20,000 mothers die in child-birth every year; 15,000 of these could have been saved.

2. 250,000 babies lose their lives each year while being born; 100,000 or more of these might have been saved.

In discussing the reasons for this terrible state of affairs medical schools, hospitals and training schools are arraigned and found wanting; hospitals because they do not do justice to the maternity wards; and training schools because they do not teach nurses enough to show them the beauties of obstetric practice. Thus far over three hundred nurses have been given the special training at the Chicago Lying-in Hospital and Dispensary, which qualifies them for the position of obstetric nurse; through the Dispensary over 15,000 mothers have been cared for in their own homes with a maternal mortality of less than one-tenth of one per cent. The medical students and visiting pupil-nurses who get their obstetric training in this way usually work in inconceivably poor and dirty homes; hence this record is all the more praiseworthy and unique.

HARRIETTE J. MCCARTHY (Mercy Hospital), has resigned from the Municipal Tuberculosis Sanitarium Dispensary Department nursing staff and has accepted the position of tuberculosis visiting nurse in Racine, Wisconsin. Margaret Janss (Grace Hospital) has also resigned from the tuberculosis nursing staff and has left Chicago for an indefinite period. (Address Venice, Los Angeles, California.)

THE senior class of the Illinois Training School for Nurses gave a two-hour demonstration for the members of their alumnae association at the Cook County Hospital amphitheatre on April 22, and all visiting nurses fortunate enough to attend were enthusiastic in their praises. The following program was presented: I. (a) Alcohol sweat; (b) hot air bath. II. (a) Setting patient up in bed; (b) changing mattress under patient. III. (a) Steam tent; (b) Bradford frame. IV. (a) Baby toilet; (b) wrapping premature baby. V. (A) Bandaging; (a) Velpeau; (b) head; (c) hand and arm. (B) Applications; (a) ice coil to heart; (b) ice-bag to heart; (c) ice-bag to painful knee. VI. (a) Tubbing; (b) hot fomentations.

Busy district nurses can't always stop to post-graduate in order to brush up old nursing methods or acquire new ones, and demonstrations as well given as the above, would prove of inestimable value. If hospitals would spare the time, both pupil-nurses and graduate nurses, whether in private or district work, would surely profit by this approved and but too little tried method of giving and receiving instruction.